Application No.: 10/789,259

Office Action dated 03/21/2005

Atty Docket No.: SOHMEI.PT1010

Customer No.: 24943

Reply dated 06/21/2005

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3 and 4 as follows. Please cancel Claims 2 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. No new matter is involved.

1. (currently amended) A riding mower comprising:

an engine arranged on a body;

a set of front wheels and a set of rear wheels supported on the body and provided on a right and a left, each in pairs toward a forward direction;

a pair of hydrostatic transmissions (HSTs) driven by receiving revolution power of the engine, for rotating the pair of rear wheels in a forward rotation direction or a reverse rotation direction;

a mower positioned in front of the pair of rear wheels and coupled to the body so as to be capable of being lifted up and down;

a step provided above the body;

a brake pedal for braking the pair of rear wheels, provided upward of the step; and

a parking operation member for maintaining a step-on condition of the brake pedal;

a pair of mower elevating links for coupling between the body and mower;

a lift shaft for rotating the pair of elevating links, respectively, provided in a right and left

direction at a side connecting portion to the body in the pair of elevating links;

a hydraulic cylinder for elevating the mower by rotating the lift shaft; and

a rotating shaft of the brake pedal provided concentrically with the lift shaft.

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2. (cancelled)

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3. (currently amended) A riding mower comprising:

an engine arranged on a body;

a pair of front wheels and a pair of rear wheels supported on the body and provided on a right and a left each in pairs toward a forward direction;

a pair of hydrostatic transmissions (HSTs) driven by receiving revolution power of the engine, for rotating the pair of rear wheels in a forward rotation direction or a reverse rotation direction, provided with a pair of variable capacity pumps and a pair of hydraulic motors for the left and the right rear wheels respectively;

a mower positioned in front of the pair of rear wheels and coupled to the body so as to be capable of being lifted up and down; and

a PTO shaft <u>driven substantially directly by the power of the engine</u>, on which the pair of variable capacity pumps are provided front and back in a row, for driving the mower provided in parallel with these variable capacity pumps.

4. (currently amended) A riding mower comprising:

an engine arranged on a body;

a pair of front wheels and a pair of rear wheels supported on the body and provided on a right and left toward a forward direction;

a pair of hydrostatic transmissions (HSTs) driven by receiving revolution power of the engine, for rotating the pair of rear wheels in a forward rotation direction or a reverse rotation

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direction, provided with a pair of variable capacity pumps and a pair of hydraulic motors for the left and the right rear wheels respectively;

a mower positioned in front of the pair of rear wheels and coupled to the body so as to be capable of being lifted up and down;

a PTO shaft for driving the mower <u>driven substantially directly by the power of the engine</u>, provided in a manner one-sided to the right or left with respect to a centerline [[S]](S) positioned along the right and left direction in terms of the forward direction; and

wherein the pair of variable capacity pumps are provided <u>front and back in a row</u>, on the side opposite the PTO shaft with respect to the centerline [[S]](S) in the right and left direction.

5. (cancelled)

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